



Connecticut Department of Public Health

Testimony Presented Before the Public Health Committee

March 11, 2015

**Commissioner Jewel Mullen, MD, MPH, MPA
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House Bill # 6283 - An Act Regulating Electronic Cigarettes.

The Department of Public Health (DPH) provides the following information regarding House Bill #6283, which amends the general statutes to treat electronic cigarettes in the same manner as conventional combustible cigarettes. The bill also mandates the DPH to adopt regulations to implement the bill's requirements with regard to electronic cigarettes.

The Department supports limiting the use of electronic cigarettes for a variety of reasons. Electronic cigarettes or electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) are currently not regulated at either the federal or state level. As such, there are no manufacturing standards or ingredient disclosure requirements, despite the fact that there is now evidence that carcinogens have been found in the aerosol.¹ There is wide variability in ENDS products; varying volumes of solution, different carrier compound engineering, varying nicotine concentrations, a wide range of additives and flavors, and even battery voltage. These engineering differences result in variability and unpredictability in how ENDS heat and convert the nicotine solution to an aerosol, the levels of nicotine and other chemicals delivered to users, and the level of air pollution generated by the exhaled aerosol.²

An estimated 18.4% of CT adults used some type of tobacco, including ENDS, in the past 30 days; 12.0% of adults have tried ENDS at least once in their lifetime, and overall, 4.0% of adults use ENDS³. Usage more than doubled among high school students from 2011-2013 and 5.3% of youth report current use⁴.

In order to minimize potential negative health effects and prevent undermining existing tobacco control measures, the department supports the consideration of efforts that seek to decrease the use of ENDS, including restricting usage in public places and implementing marketing restrictions.

The bill also mandates the Department to adopt regulations to implement the proposed requirements regarding ENDS. The regulation of tobacco products in CT does not fall under the purview of DPH, as we do not have the expertise, resources, or authority to adopt regulations to implement these proposed requirements. Should the bill move forward with this language, the Department cannot support it due to the anticipated fiscal impact.

In addition, the Department defers to the Office of the Attorney General and the Department of Revenue Services regarding any additional fiscal or legal implications that may arise from the proposed statutory changes in this bill.

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We thank you for your consideration of the Department's views on this bill.

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- 1 Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights. *Electronic Smoking Devices and Secondhand Aerosol*. 2014.
 - 2 Grana, R., Benowitz, N. Glantz, S.A. *E-Cigarettes: A Scientific Review*. American Heart Association: Contemporary Reviews in Cardiovascular Medicine. 2014. Retrieved from: <http://circ.ahajournals.org/content/129/19/1972.full.pdf+html>.
 - 3 State of Connecticut, Department of Public Health. Tobacco Use Prevention and Control Program. *Adults and Tobacco Use in Connecticut. Fact Sheet*. September 2014; data from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2013.
 - 4 State of Connecticut, Department of Public Health. *Youth and Tobacco Use in Connecticut. Fact Sheet*. August 2014; data from the 2013 CT Youth Tobacco Survey